



New Hot Topics • Controlling Baghdad Skies • War Bikes

August 2003
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Soldiers

**Afghan
Civil Affairs
Team**

**National Guard
Pullout Poster
inside!**



Cover Story — Page 8
Members of the 403rd Civil
Affairs Battalion unload
humanitarian daily rations
that will help feed the
Afghan people.
— SGT Vernell Hall

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• soldiersmagazine.com



WHEN the average person sees a civilianized “Hummer” going down the road, he immediately thinks “Army,” despite the slick paint job and fancy interior. However, when the average person sees a Harley Davidson motorcycle, the connection with the Army just isn’t there, even though the Army has had a long association with the vehicle. In “War Bikes,” SFC Lisa Gregory chronicles the Army’s long-time involvement with the motorcycle while showing how the Army helped give rise to an American icon.

With Hispanics now comprising America’s largest minority per the last census, the Army has tailored its recruiting efforts accordingly. To see how An Army of One translates in Miami, be sure to check out SSG Alberto Betancourt’s “Yo Soy El Army.” You’ll see the Miami Recruiting Battalion in action through an

innovative, tailored approach to recruiting.

Finally, in “Winning Hearts and Minds” SGT W. Cullen James and SGT Vernell Hall showcase the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion in Afghanistan. By helping the Afghan people rebuild their country after decades of war and oppression, these soldiers are truly making a difference in the lives of people — a difference that will echo for generations.

John E. Suttle
John E. Suttle
Editor in Chief



Soldiers

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Mom's Magazine

I AM part of a family that currently boasts three active-duty soldiers. I get Soldiers every month, and after I read it I send it on to my mother. Reading the articles keeps her from worrying too much about what's happening in Iraq, and also helps her understand the Army itself.

She loved the map that was in the March issue, and she has it on the wall with little colored pins showing every place her sons have been.

Mom says that all her kids wear combat boots, and she often tells us how proud she is. Her pride stems not only from her love for us, but from the understanding and appreciation of the Army she's gained from your pages.

Once again, thank you, and may you have many, many more issues to come.

SGT Ardys J. Favaro
Giebelstadt, Germany

Soldiers for Students

IN April 2003 I was asked to participate in a career/hobby day at one of the schools in my community.

I immediately contacted your office and asked if you could provide some magazines for the students in the school. You were kind enough to send me enough magazines for all the students who attended my classes.

Soldiers magazine really assisted in making this a great day for me and the students in the school. Thank you again for your contribution. It was really appreciated — by all of us.

SSG Ray Purnell
St. Louis, Mo.

Iraq Coverage

THE March and April articles on the buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom by Heike Hasenauer and Steve Harding and the June photo layout on the advance to Baghdad were great, and encouraged me about the role of the Army in Iraq.

The words and pictures assured me

that our soldiers are this nation's most important ambassadors.

CW3 Paul Kahler
Via e-mail

Medic and Child

I THINK it's shameful that you would run a picture of a nearly naked child on the cover of your magazine. The image on May's cover was simply too much.

Name withheld by request
via e-mail

You seem to be in a distinct minority — virtually all the comments we've received about the image of PFC Joseph P. Dwyer have been extremely positive. The fact that he was helping to save the child's life outweighs, for virtually everyone but you, the fact that in the rush to move the child to safety some of his clothes were left behind.

Hooah for PVT Murphy

IN reference to the cartoon in the upper right corner on page 41 of the June article "Through Murphy's Eyes," on behalf of a few thousand dads and granddads, I'd just like to say: "Thanks Murphy, we needed that."

SFC Carlton C. Spain (Ret.)
via e-mail

WOULD it be possible for Soldiers to run the PVT Murphy cartoon by SFC Mark Baker in every issue? I enjoy your publication, as do the soldiers in my unit, and we think it would make the magazine even more enjoyable if you included PVT Murphy with every issue.

SGT Thomas A. Murphy
via e-mail

AS much as we'd like to run PVT Murphy in every issue, space constraints make it impossible.

Brigade, Not Battalion

ON page 10 of the June issue you identified SGM Charles Smith as a member of the 308th Civil Affairs Battalion. I

just wanted to inform you that the unit is actually the 308th CA Brigade, from Homewood, Ill.

LTC H. David Pendleton
via e-mail

Army of One

I AM the S4 for the 95th Military Police Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. Soldiers throughout the unit really enjoy your "Army of One" Posters. We would like to have some additional ones for company bulletin boards. Is there a way we can get 10 copies of the first and second posters?

CPT Timothy Mahoney
via e-mail

Excellent Challenge

OUR company provides training and technical assistance to the National Guard Challenge program, and we also maintain the program's Web site. We feel that Beth Reece's May article "Youth Challenge" does an exceptional job of explaining the Challenge program to those who are not familiar with it and at the same time it boosts the morale of the Challenge staff.

I am writing to request permission to post the article on the Challenge site.

Kelly Belmonte,
via e-mail

WE also thought Beth did a fine job on the article, and would be happy for it to appear on the Challenge Web site.

 For links to the Army News Service and Soldiers Radio Live, Visit www.army.mil

 Get DOD News at www.defenselink.mil

Iraq

SPC Joseph Lomas (left) and PFC Michael Moran from Fort Hood's 411th Military Police Company view the destruction caused by a missile at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in the town of Tikrit.

— Photo by SSG Klaus Baesu





► Kosovo

PVT Nicholas Cruz from the 1st Infantry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, shoots an azimuth toward a target reference point during indirect-fire training on Falcon 4 range in the town of Ramnjane.

— Photo by SGT April Johnson





▲ Thailand

Army special forces MSG Earl Sagucio peers out the ramp of a KC-130 to view the approaching drop zone and ensure proper timing for the release of the parachutists during Thailand's Cobra Gold 2003 Friendship Jump.

— Photo by Master Sgt.
David McCarthy, USAF



▲ Afghanistan

1LT Kathy McConkey of the 948th Forward Surgical Team examines a baby from the village of Kakaran during a medical assistance mission.

— Photo by SSG Leopold Medina Jr.

Winning

Story by SGT W. Cullen James

Hearts

Photos by SGT Vernell Hall



and Minds



CIVIL-affairs soldiers throughout Afghanistan are working hard through various community projects to win the trust of the Afghan people.

Winning hearts and minds is their mission, and over the course of seven months soldiers of Team A, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, at Asadabad Fire Base have completed several projects that support that goal. These projects have included distribution of humanitarian-aid items, digging a well at a boys school, laying an irrigation pipeline, covering the rock and mortar walls at a girls school with concrete, putting in latrines for the same school, plus many other projects.

“... we’re improving life for the people here, and that’s good for America.”

Although CA soldiers assist the Afghans in getting projects started, the work is done by Afghans. They are empowered by CA through funding and supplies.

“They’ve done a nice job,” said MAJ Timothy Connors, officer in charge of Team A. “We’re real happy with them, but the big thing is whether

SGTs W. Cullen James and Vernell Hall are with the 11th Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.

- Members of the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion unload humanitarian daily rations that will help feed the Afghan people at their new locations.
- Soldiers unload construction equipment that will be used to build homes for Afghans who had to relocate because of a flood in Parwan Province.



The 403rd’s MAJ Mark Cepiel talks to village leaders about what the CA unit is doing to aid local Afghans.

they’re happy, and I think they are,” Connors said.

Once a project is started, the soldiers check back every week to assess the progress. The Caramal Girls School in Asadabad is one place where they have focused. They’ve replaced all the windows, put down carpeting and had the school painted.

“It’s good to just check on the work and make sure the principal is happy,” Connors said. “And they’re really happy with the improvements.”

Several schools in the area surrounding Asadabad have benefited from CA assistance.

“We’ve done a lot of projects like Caramal, where they have buildings but they need some work,” Connor said. “Whether replacing a roof or windows, there’s plenty of work to do.”

“It can be frustrating at times,





A soldier unloads blankets to aid Afghans displaced by the flood in Parwan Province.

because the progress can be slow, but it is rewarding,” said SGT Mark Watson, a Team A member.

Connors stressed that his team is working within specific guidelines.

“There’s a misconception among some people that we’re here to reconstruct the country,” he said. “We’re not really capable of doing that. Our job is to support the maneuver forces. Whether that payoff is in force protection or elsewhere, we do a lot of work in villages around the base trying to win support.”

“We also do work where the maneuver forces want to focus their operations,” said Connors. “The end result is to make it harder for bad guys to operate in certain areas.

“We work to maintain a good

These projects have included distribution of humanitarian-aid items, digging a well at a boys school, placing an irrigation pipeline, laying concrete coverage for rock and mortar walls at a girls school, and putting in latrines for the same school, plus many other projects.

relationship with the Afghan people so they’re willing to support our mission. We’re not going willy-nilly about the country doing work; we’re doing it for a reason,” he said.

Connors added that although the end result of their work is to assist U.S. and coalition forces, it is good that they can help the Afghan people at the same time.

“I’m happy the people are getting back on their feet, but I am more satisfied when I see the results of our work with respect to our forces here. That’s what it’s all about — we’re here to make the job of the maneuver commander easier,” Connors said. “In the process we’re improving life for the people here, and that’s good for America.” 🇺🇸

Controlling Baghdad Skies

Story and Photo by SPC Jacob Boyer

THE soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, were helping pilots navigate the increasingly crowded skies over

Iraq's capital after taking over operation of the control tower at Baghdad International Airport in April.

"We were directly responsible for all aircraft entering and exiting the airspace around Baghdad," said SSG Andrew Lecuyer, then air traffic control tower chief. "We made sure everything was 'deconflicted.'"

The first group of soldiers to work in the tower arrived with a convoy of vehicles from the 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. The following morning, the air-traffic controllers began the task of moving their gear up 13 flights of stairs to the tower's control center, 140 feet above the ground.

At the time the tower was without power, Lecuyer said. Everything had to be carried to the top and connected by cables to generators on the ground.

"None of the work was really difficult," said SPC Montez Brown, an ATC specialist. "But lugging all that stuff up the steps was rough. We only had daylight hours, because once it got dark we had to observe light discipline."

"After setting up the operation, the Co. D soldiers had to make sure the

facility remained operational," said SPC Sean Bailey. "It required a lot of schlepping things up the stairs, including all our food and water."

While five soldiers worked eight-hour shifts in the control center, about a dozen others slept one floor below, Lecuyer said. Everyone considered the work important, he added. "We did everything from move aircraft on the ground to control them in the air," said Brown. "We were like a second pair of eyes for them, making sure the pilots and crews stayed safe when they were out flying."

Brown said he was thrilled when he reached the tower; most soldiers in the company considered it their final

destination in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It seemed like we'd waited a long time to get to where we were going," he said. "So everybody was pretty happy when we arrived. Some of the soldiers had never been up in a real control tower, so to say we controlled the skies from that tower, that's a pretty awesome thing."

Lecuyer said after the soldiers reached their final destination, their work continued as more and more aircraft moved to the airport. The soldiers of Co. D watched coalition aviators' backs until they handed over the job to Air Force controllers, who in turn passed the mission to Royal Australian Air Force controllers. 🇺🇸



SPC Jacob Boyer is with the 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office

SSG Andrew Lecuyer and SPC Montez Brown of Co. D, 1st Bn., 58th Avn. Regt., keep track of radio communications in the tower of Baghdad International Airport.

Boosting

Story by Heike Hasenauer

Security

AS America prepared for war against Iraq, hundreds of military and civilian officials within the sprawling Department of Homeland Security sprang into high gear to protect the nation from anticipated retaliation.

Every security measure that had been in place after Sept. 11, 2001, was beefed up. Fighters patrolled the skies in greater numbers, and more frequently. The Coast Guard patrolled waterways and seaports with more vessels. And as the number of active-duty soldiers deployed to the Persian Gulf region continued to swell, so did the number of Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers activated in virtually every state to augment regular troops.

"Our very heartland is under attack, and all of us must be as ready as possible for the next strike," said U.S. Army, Pacific, deputy commander MG Craig B. Whelden, at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

"In a sense, the efforts in the United States are more complex and uncertain than those faced by coalition forces now in the Persian Gulf region," he said. "We don't know where or when the next attack will occur."

In Hawaii, 3,000 miles from any landmass, where support from the U.S. mainland would take five to seven hours, commanders must always be on guard. "This is a target-rich environment," said COL George Garrett, director of the office of the Joint Rear-Area Coordinator, Hawaii. The islands are home to the headquarters of both U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Army Pacific, besides housing every branch of the military in very close proximity.

After the 2001 terrorist attacks the combatant commander, USPACOM, at Camp Smith, Hawaii, tasked USARPAC to be the executive agent for joint rear-area coordination, that is, homeland defense in Hawaii. The USARPAC commander thus became the JRAC, or joint rear-area coordinator.

Members of JRAC-HI, in partnership with the joint military services present in Hawaii and local, state and federal authorities, then developed a homeland defense preparedness plan, in the process basically revising a plan that had been in place for use in case of war on the Korean

peninsula, Garrett said.

"When 911 hit, we received the ➤

An armed 41-foot utility boat from Coast Guard Station Honolulu escorts the USNS *Summer* out of Honolulu Harbor as part of stepped-up security in the port.

PA2 Lauren Smith, USCG



y in Hawaii





A gate guard at Schofield Barracks inspects SPC David Brault's ID card. Increased security at all military installations is a key feature of Hawaii's defense plan.

existing plan and reduced its scope to the Hawaiian Islands," he said. "The networking we'd done through our military support to civilian authorities allowed us to jump right into the 'run' phase of the Army's 'crawl, walk, run' training process. Most other states didn't have that luxury."

The defense plan for Hawaii includes protecting and restricting access to military installations by reducing entry points and using roving patrols, varying the procedures of guard forces to minimize the predictability of what they do, and maintaining regular contact with local law enforcement officials to receive regular intelligence reports, Whelden said.

Soon after it was established in October 2001, JRAC-HI identified mission-essential vulnerable areas, MEVAs, both on and off military installations. Local civil authorities have identified some 150 of their own MEVAs, Whelden said.

JRAC-HI also utilizes a defense-coordinating officer for providing military support to civil authorities following natural or man-made

disasters in Hawaii, American Samoa and neighboring islands.

The organization uses a number of tools to support its critical mission. Through an interactive computer system called ASOCC (for area security operations command and control), JRAC-HI personnel can monitor the activities and developing situations of friendly "forces," both military and civilian, Whelden said.

At the same time, the Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio System — a newly established, narrow-band frequency, land-mobile system — allows first-responders to communicate over a secure line with the military and each other. PACMERS is compatible with radio systems on aircraft and vessels, and can accom-

Soon after it was established in October 2001, JRAC-HI identified mission-essential vulnerable areas, MEVAs, both on and off military installations.

modate as many as 149 "talk groups" on its network, Whelden said, with some of those groups dedicated to homeland security.

JRAC-HI boasts a round-the-clock joint intelligence-support element and counter-intelligence and law-enforcement coordination cell, and analyzes intelligence information and disseminates

it to those who need it, via secure Internet.

JRAC-HI has also developed a multi-agency training program, with worst possible case scenarios designed to exercise quick response, security awareness and military support to civilian authorities, Whelden said. To date, seven joint exercises have been conducted on the islands, some of them involving a mock plane crash or



Located at Pearl Harbor, Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6 provides specialized support to the Joint Rear Area Coordinator-Hawaii.



Marine Corps and Defense Department security forces team up to check traffic and personnel entering Pearl Harbor.

simulated car bomb.

The focused training program also includes quick-reaction-force exercises, key-leader discussions and “what-if” rock drills, Garrett said.

Within 30 days of Sept. 11, 2001, JRAC-HI, through coordination with state civil-defense authorities, also established a civilian version of the military force-protection-condition rating system for use in civilian communities in Hawaii. Tom Ridge, director of the Department of Homeland Security, used the color-coded system as a model for the national Security Alert System.

And JRAC-HI worked with local, state and federal officials to help establish Hawaii’s FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force, in 2002, and today feeds the JTTF intelligence information.

“What’s being done in Hawaii is a microcosm of what Ridge faced on a national scale,” Whelden said. “Hawaii has geographic advantages because of its isolation, affording tighter control

and access; a large military presence with a military combatant commander, all four armed services and the Coast Guard in close proximity; and all those forces are already accustomed to working together and with local, state and federal agencies.

“Just as important, however, is the

spirit of *ohana*, or family, that helps people in Hawaii transcend normal bureaucratic and cultural barriers,” Whelden added. “And because of the unique circumstances in Hawaii, we’re quite possibly ahead of the national effort in homeland security.” 📧

JRAC-HI People

THE JRAC-HI cell is composed of some 80 Reserve soldiers — about half of whom have been on active duty for two years as part of JRAC-HI, said USARPAC spokesman Joe Bonfiglio.

The Reserve soldiers left a range of civilian professions as varied as the missions they now perform, Bonfiglio said.

COL George Garrett, who is a former Honolulu police officer and current Defense Department training manager who retired from the military

with 35 years’ service, was recalled to active duty to become JRAC-HI’s director.

The current operations officer for the group, MAJ Ferman Cepeda, is a high school math teacher. Linguist-interrogator SSG Cecilia Corujo-Butler is a self-employed daycare provider and mother of three small children. And SFC Neoma Naaktgeboren, a counter-intelligence agent, is an art-gallery manager in civilian life. — *Heike Hasenauer*

War Bikes

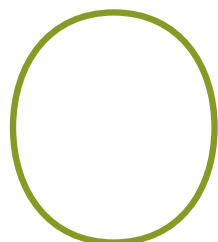
Story by SFC Lisa Gregory



Originally used by frontline couriers, motorcycles ultimately took on a range of military tasks — including widespread service with military police units.



Motorcycles have played an enduring role in American military operations since the Army enlisted its first two-wheeled cycle before World War I.



NE hundred years ago four men watched as their dream, the Harley-Davidson motorcycle,

rolled out of a little wooden shack in Milwaukee, Wis. Thanks to good timing and the rugged capability of such two-wheeled machines, Harley — along with motorcycles from such other companies as Indian in America, BMW in Germany and Triumph in Great Britain — have played an enduring role in military transportation.

The Army began using motorcycles as early as 1913, and in 1916 the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company's product became the vehicle of choice for GEN John J. Pershing's pursuit of Pancho Villa. By 1917 roughly one-third of all Harley-Davidson motorcycles produced were sold to the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, European armies had begun using fast and agile motorcycles as reconnaissance and messenger vehicles, and even as ambulances. Many motorcycles used during World War I were equipped with special sidecars mounting machine guns. By the

time America entered the war, the motorcycle was widely used in combat, communications and transportation.

The Army used an estimated 20,000 motorcycles during the war. In fact, the first American to enter Germany after the ceasefire was reported to be motorcycle dispatch rider CPL Roy Holtz.

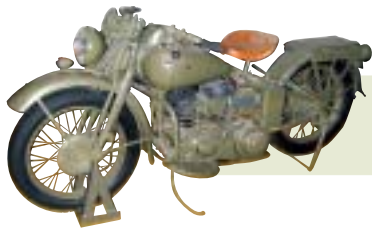
As America prepared to enter World War II, Harley Davidson again answered the call by producing a motorcycle to withstand the harsh

African deserts. But, by the time production was completed on the bike, U.S. forces had moved through Africa and the motorcycle was slowly being replaced by the jeep.

The Germans continued to benefit from the maneuverability of military motorcycles and gave them a new mission, that of tactical assault, something the United States would



At various times in the nation's military history — including Operation Desert Storm — motorcycles have been used in areas where roads were impassable or nonexistent.



Maneuverability and speed continue to make motorcycles an important mode of military transportation.

use again in later conflicts. In all, Harley Davidson produced some 90,000 military motorcycles during the war.

At the end of the war many veterans focused on returning to society. Many felt a need to recapture the thrill they felt during the war as members of tank units or bomber crews. One veteran, Willie Forkner, an avid motorcyclist before the war, decided to create a motorcycle club. And so began the era of the “outlaw biker.”

These riders were thrill seekers


and were considered to be menaces by some. A biker stereotype became the basis for biker movies, magazines and even clothing lines, which resembled military uniforms.

In the 1960s motorcycles were used by special forces troops in Vietnam. After the war America again saw returning veterans taking to the streets on their two-wheeled machines. In 1988 the veterans decided it was time to ride for a purpose. A motorcycle caravan called “Rolling Thunder” rolled into Washington, D.C., that Memorial Day weekend to bring attention to the plight of those American service members still

missing from the Korean and Vietnam wars. Each year since then, hundreds of thousands of people have ridden through the nation’s capital and met at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay homage to those who didn’t return.

Military motorcycles again appeared in a combat zone in 1991, seeing service during Operation Desert Storm. The vehicle’s ability to keep going, even after the road ends, was an important factor in Afghanistan, as it is today in Iraq, where the terrain doesn’t always allow access for heavier, four-wheeled vehicles.

Along with their original missions of reconnaissance and carrying dispatches to the front, the Army has used motorcycles to move small amounts of medical supplies to the front lines when heavier vehicles couldn’t make it.

The compact maneuverability and speed of these two-wheeled vehicles continue to make them an important mode of military transportation, and an evolving part of military history. 



First used by Army scouts, motorcycles are still a popular mount for reconnaissance troops. Here, scouts head out during a 1988 maneuver in Korea.

SPC Jeffrey A. Parks



This year's FreedomWalk festival will include a JROTC wreath-laying at the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

Freedom Walk

Story by COL Timothy H. Miner,
USAF Reserve

FROM Sept. 19 through 21, U.S. military personnel, family members and civilian participants from around the world will gather in Washington, D.C., to walk in one of the nation's newest noncompetitive international sports events.

The walk will take participants around the monuments and parks in the nation's capital, to honor those who died to protect America's freedom and freedom abroad.

The second annual Reserve Officer Association FreedomWalk Festival is hosted by ROA, in cooperation with the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States.

The sport, known in Germany as volksmarching, brings participants together for fun, fitness and fellowship, ROA officials said.

American soldiers returning from Germany during the 1970s brought the sport to the United States and created the American Volkssport Association — the national sanctioning authority for volksmarching in America, with

more than 300 affiliated clubs.

Nobody keeps time; the satisfaction comes from completing trails of challenging distances. With a map to guide them, participants will walk trails of 4, 8 and 13 miles, from the ROA's Minuteman Memorial Building next to the U.S. Capitol, around the National Mall, monuments and Arlington National Cemetery.

Again this year, water and refreshments will be available at checkpoints staffed by members of such organizations as the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and ROA local chapters.

Because of the multiple trails, the walk challenges all participants. In 2002 the oldest participant was an Army World War II veteran who walks 12 kilometers a day.

The longest route in this year's event will be the "Mount to Hill Ultra-Marathon" of 44 kilometers, from the Purple Heart Memorial at the entrance to Mount Vernon, back to Capitol Hill.

This walking "civics lesson" makes the U.S. FreedomWalk Festival a wonderful program for youth groups, officials said. In 2002, Army JROTC

classmates from Huguenot High School in Richmond, Va., and the Army ROTC Marching Team from Vermont's Norwich University were the weekend's honor units.

Other youth groups also participated in 2002, and more are expected to turn out for this year's event.

Active-duty, National Guard and Reserve units are welcome to register teams, as are civilian-company teams.

This is an international program, with the Sunday route leading participants around the German-American Friendship Garden, Netherlands Carillon, Japanese cherry trees, a display of the Berlin Wall, and statues from Italy. The new 32-kilometer trail for this year's Sunday race will also pass the German Embassy, National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall and Chinatown's Friendship Arch.

All adult participants in the race will receive certificates and the U.S. FreedomWalk Medal. Children will receive certificates and patches, and may purchase the medal. 🇺🇸

COL Timothy H. Miner is chairman of the Reserve Officer Association's U.S. FreedomWalk Festival.



For more information visit:
www.roa.org



Tomorrow's Battle

Story by SGT Mike Kieser Photos by Ray Barnard

LIVING in bombed-out ruins, the “Cortinians” are a product of terrorism and savage warfare. Dirt roads winding through their sparsely populated towns are lined with derelict automobiles. The twisted metal carcasses are casualties of car bombings or artillery fire. Incapable of providing transportation, they now lay curbside — useful only as concealment for forces under fire.

U.S. soldiers deployed to “Cortina” have seen the human cost of warfare, too. The Cortinians want help

but seem angry and fearful that the Americans may bring more destruction to the country’s schools and hospitals, or invade people’s homes.

The Cortinians are a fictional people who exist only as part of the battle scenarios fought at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., the Army’s light infantry forces training center that emphasizes joint-service teamwork.

Building on the success of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., which began training armored and mechanized forces in 1981, the JRTC was initially established at Fort Chaffee, Ark., in 1987. JRTC moved to Fort Polk 10 years ago this month.

Ray Barnard



SGT Mike Kieser works for the Fort Polk Public Affairs Office.

No “cookie-cutter” template is used to train units at JRTC — each rotation provides a different scenario. This allows training to adapt over time and reflect changes seen in real-world missions.

Training scenarios at JRTC are “fought” in contemporary operating environments, integrating changing world conditions and lessons learned from real-world conflict.

That emphasis on realism and the feedback provided by professional observer-controllers are used to create a training environment tailored for light-infantry, special-forces and ranger units, but the center also integrates training with heavy armored units, the Air Force and, more recently, the Navy and Marine Corps.

CSM Michael O’Neil, a member of the 172nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, has participated in eight JRTC rotations. During a recent rotation O’Neil said that the opposition force — the 1st Battalion, 509th Inf. Regiment — has continuously provided a difficult and robust enemy in a constantly changing battlefield. The combination of the enemy, terrain and battlefield distracters are what makes

rotations work, he said.

“As JRTC has progressed, it has gotten more realistic. Civilians on the battlefield have been integrated well. The enemy is smart and likes to kill people. He puts up obstacles and cuts lines of communication. The OPFOR wants to get to you and has had to improve as

time has added experience and technology to the mixture. They do very well,” O’Neil said.

No “cookie-cutter” template is used to train units at JRTC — each rotation provides a different scenario, said CSM Angel Febles of the JRTC Operations Group. This allows training to adapt over time and reflect changes seen in real-world missions.

“I’ve heard soldiers who have been in combat say ‘I’ve seen this before — it’s a JRTC fight,’” Febles said. “In Iraq and Afghanistan we’ve seen suicide and vehicle bombs, humanitarian-aid missions, and civilians and media on the battlefield. All of those are intricately woven into a rotation here.”

While rotations are never the same, Febles said, all units training at JRTC will fight at the Shughart-Gordon MOUT site. The urban conditions soldiers encounter there provide a glimpse into the environment in which today’s and tomorrow’s battles will likely be fought.

Walking through Shughart-Gordon, soldiers see a town complete with automobiles, buildings, villagers and more.

“We never train the same way twice, but we will always do a MOUT battle. It’s essential,” Febles said. “The world is getting more and more populated, and people aren’t spread out like they once were. In the future, we will fight in urban areas more than ever.”

While training continues at JRTC, it’s impossible for units to predict how an upcoming rotation will be conducted. Their best bet may be to keep an eye on current events. What happens in the world today is what will shape the battles fought in Cortina tomorrow. 🚩

◀ JRTC’s high-tech MOUT site realistically recreates the sights, sounds and challenges of military operations in an urban environment.

efield



Ray Bernard



▶ More than 1,000 cameras monitor the action at the MOUT site.

◀ Every rotational unit either attacks or defends the MOUT site. Either way, the training is tough and realistic.



Better Sight

for

Story and Photos by
Heike Hasenauer

Soldiers

LASER eye surgery has become increasingly popular in the United States and abroad, as more people share their positive stories about being able to see without cumbersome glasses or contact lenses.

In Germany, soldiers can have the procedure done free of charge through the Warfighter Refractive Eye-Surgery Program offered at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, "the only U.S. military facility in Europe where refractive surgery is performed," said Air Force Dr. (Lt. Col.) Todd Hess, one of four ophthalmologists who perform the procedure at LRMC.

Through the program, soldiers and airmen may undergo Lasik corrective eye surgery, which was first offered at LRMC in January 2003, Hess said.

Until Lasik became available at LRMC, ophthalmologists performed photorefractive keratectomy to flatten the cornea by scraping off surface cells. The first PRK was performed at LRMC in April 2002, Hess said.

"We've done more than 400 eyes since October 2002," Hess said. (Doctors don't count

patients or pairs of eyes because some patients have only one eye done.)

The advantage of Lasik over PRK is that patients recover more quickly from Lasik, in two to three days versus seven to 10 days, Hess said, because there's no scraping involved. Even after undergoing a PRK, "almost 75 percent of patients have 20/20 vision after one month, without having to wear glasses," Hess said.

Word that the military offers this surgery has gotten around, he added, and the waiting list for the procedure has grown as a result. Considering that in 2001 the average cost for the PRK was \$1,600 per eye in the United States, it's easy to understand why soldiers would want to take advantage of the program.

A prospective candidate for the surgery must first obtain authorization for the treatment by obtaining a form from his optometry clinic and having his commander sign it, Hess said. "The commander also selects a category of treatment, based on the soldier's job.

Category one refers to soldiers who are frequently deployed; two covers those less frequently deployed in response to real-world contingencies, but deployed often to participate in training exercises; and three is everyone else, Hess said.

Once the treatment is authorized, the soldier is given an eye exam, during which time the optometrist can ensure he meets the criteria for Lasik surgery. Typically, that means that the prospective patient is extremely near- or far-sighted, Hess said.

"If you have trouble focusing and wear bifocals, it's probably not for you," he added. "A lot of patients with bifocals do have the surgery done, but they have to realize they'll still need reading glasses, and it might increase their dependence on reading glasses.

"The procedure takes about 10 minutes," Hess said. "But we do an extensive pre-op exam that disqualifies about 20 percent of the referred candidates."

Some reasons include too little tear production, a condition called kerato-



The Lasik procedure itself takes only about 10 minutes, but an extensive preoperative examination disqualifies about 20 percent of the referred candidates.

conus, and very dilated pupils. Patients with the latter, Hess said, are not treated because patients with large pupils who have undergone the surgery complain about problems with glare afterward.

1LT Marcy Webster, a staff nurse at LRMC, had the surgery in July 2002. She'd thought about having it

read the clock on the wall. "I'd recommend it," she said, "but not to people who only have to wear glasses occasionally."

Now, she feels like she has a new lease on life, Webster said. "When I deploy, I don't need an insert in my gas mask to be able to see. And I don't need to pack contact lens cases,


■ Toss the glasses and contact lenses

Are you eligible?

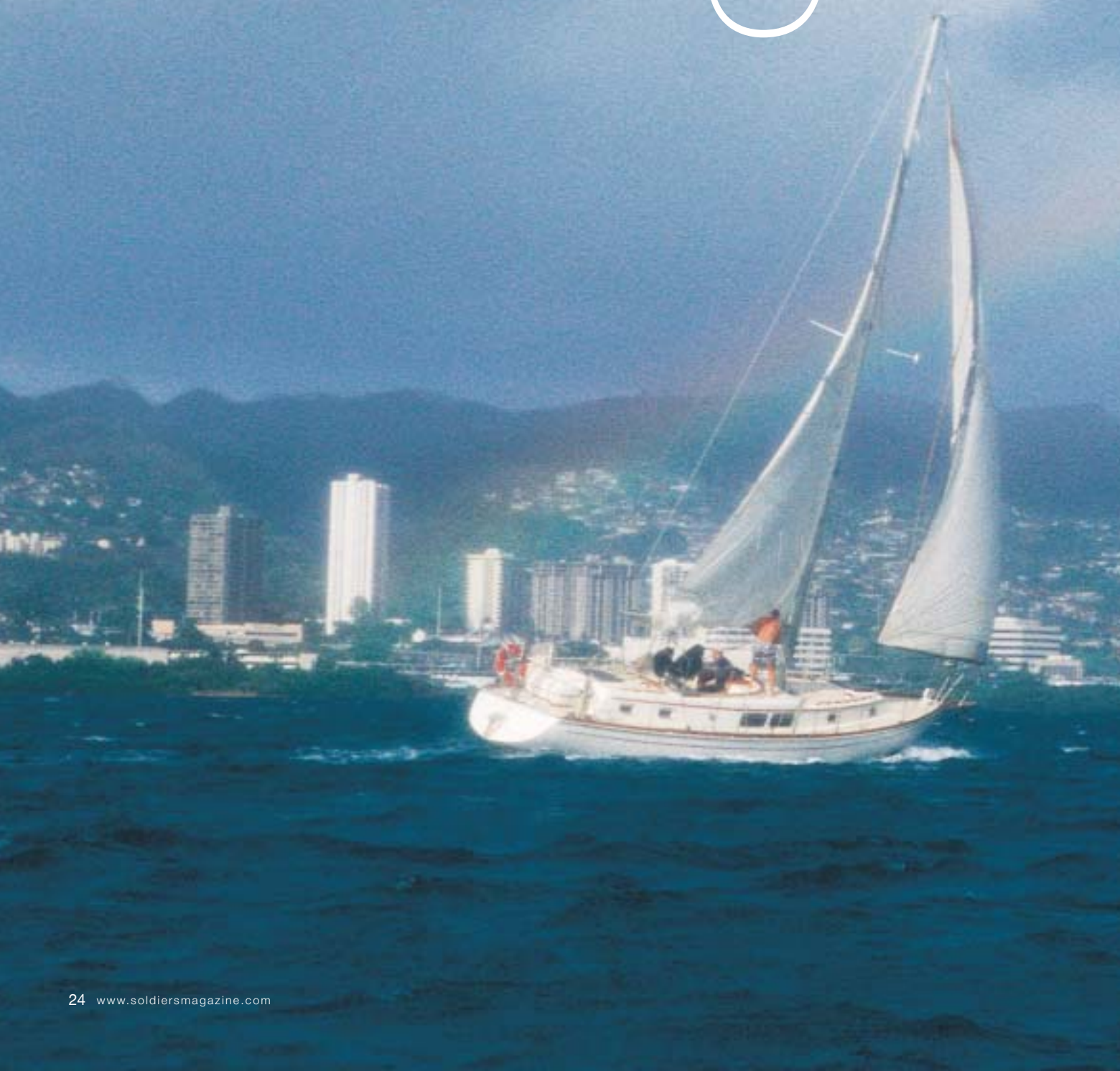
done for years, she said. "I'd been wearing glasses since I was 8-years old and contacts since 20. My vision got so bad I couldn't see my alarm clock in the morning. My poor vision impaired my life."

Webster said as soon as she got off the table after the surgery she could

cleaner and solution."

In five to 10 years, all the U.S. military services will have greatly reduced their members' dependence on glasses and contact lenses as more military medical facilities offer corrective eye surgery to their patients, Hess said. 

Sailing to



Victory

Story and Photos by
Heike Hasenauer

“As a psychologist, one of my missions in life is to help people understand how to successfully cope with stress. Sailing is a good example of an effective coping strategy.”

THE glistening aqua-blue water in Honolulu Bay had turned gray and choppy. As black rain clouds gathered overhead, angry swells slapped against the 40-foot racing sloop docked in Rainbow Bay Marina, near Pearl Harbor’s *USS Arizona* Memorial, on Oahu.

Dr. (COL) Lyle Carlson, chief of the Department of Psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center and captain of *Tropical Splash*, dispelled some of his passengers’ fears about the day’s sail. It would be a fantastic ride, he told the group — all colleagues at TAMC — and would provide valuable training for the upcoming Labor Day sailboat race ►

Sailing is a popular pastime for soldiers and civilians alike in Hawaii — even when storm clouds gather.



Dr. (COL) Lyle Carlson keeps an eye on the wind and on *Tropical Splash's* sail.



Crewmembers respond instinctively to sudden shifts in the wind and adjust the boat's sails to make the most of every change.

he planned to enter for the second consecutive year.

Sponsored by Hawaii's yacht clubs, the roughly nine-hour, 80-mile journey begins from the northern tip of Maui, off the coast of Honokohau, and continues to the finish line outside Honolulu. Some 40 boats compete in four classes. Of 16 boats that competed in the fastest racing-boat class last year, Carlson's won, he said, "because I prepared by sailing regularly with a lot of experienced people."

Among them is Dr. John Myhre, a civilian TAMC psychologist who previously owned Carlson's boat and sailed it to victory in the 2001 race. He sailed in the 2002 race on his own boat.

A veteran of other races as well, Myhre was aboard on this day to again provide his expertise. Born and raised in Hawaii, he called himself a man of the sea. Surrounded by water his whole life, sailing became second nature to him,





Dr. (LTC) Gary Southwell helps adjust *Tropical Splash's* sail.



Once back at Rainbow Bay Marina, near the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor, the boat's crewmembers start packing away sails.

he said. And he tended to take charge. No one contested.

"This is ideal racing weather," Carlson said, his eyes squinting against the afternoon haze. The wind whipped up to 25 miles per hour, causing the boat's 40-foot sail to launch the boat into S-shaped roller-coaster-like maneuvers, as it rode with the wind and the tide.

The boat lay low against the water as her sleek bow crashed head on into the waves and sent one mountain of seawater after another cascading over the sides.

On race day this September, *Tropical Splash* will be moored at Maui's Lahaina Harbor, on the west side of the island, with all the other competing boats. The multihulls (catamarans), large and small cruisers (pleasure sailboats), and small and large racing boats will all make the roughly two-hour journey to the starting line at the northern coast of Maui. They'll line up by class, with starting times for each class 10 minutes apart.

Ten minutes before race time a warning shot will be fired, alerting crews to prepare for departure.

The boats will jockey for position, sailing around in large circles, each attempting to cross over the starting line seconds after the starting shot is fired.

"From the starting line to the eastern tip of the island of Molokai it's a broad reach. We sail with the main sail and a jib sail, about 135 degrees off the wind," Carlson said.

"By the time we round the eastern end of Molokai, we'll be able to take advantage of the trade winds by hoisting the spinnaker and sailing downwind."

He doesn't expect other boats to be a problem, except at the start of the race. It can get a bit crowded at the start of a race and the potential for a crash is significant. But *Tropical Splash* is so fast he and his crew don't really worry about other boats too much, Carlson said.

High wind, on the other hand, can have critical consequences. "When the spinnaker's up and you have to tack, a mistake can mean disaster. The spinnaker pole could get

Sailing is understandably popular in Hawaii, and marinas throughout the islands are packed with boats of all sizes, shapes and capabilities.

caught in a wave as it's being moved from side to side, causing the pole to snap or ripping it from the boat," he said.

The race route will take Carlson and his seven-member crew along the north shore of Molokai — "one of the most beautiful areas of the world in which to sail," Carlson said. "The route parallels the shoreline for the entire length of Molokai and passes 3,000-foot cliffs that rise straight up from the sea. Mountain peaks 4,000 feet tall will be behind us.

"And there are waterfalls that cascade down the cliffs to the sea, all along the route," he added. By noon, Carlson said, he and his crew would be able to see the west end of Molokai and, soon after, the island of Oahu. "Once we leave the west end of Molokai, it'll be a straight shot across the channel to Honolulu.

"Being able to depend on your sailing skill, to not only survive the ocean but to negotiate freely upon its surface, produces a pleasure unlike anything else on earth," Carlson said. "It's exhilarating and relaxing at the same time."

"From the starting line to the eastern tip of the island of Molokai it's a broad reach. We sail with the main sail and a jib sail, about 135 degrees off the wind."

Carlson described *Tropical Splash* as "a surfboard with a sail. In fact, in last year's race, when we hit the waves just right, we actually surfed. That's pretty awesome in a 40-foot boat."

When the swells are continuous, the bow hits the waves head on, causing the entire front half of the boat to submerge. "When you see half your boat underwater, it sends the adrenaline shooting through your body," Carlson said. "I don't think anything is as exciting.

"As a psychologist, one of my missions in life is to help people understand how to successfully cope with stress. Sailing is a good example of an effective coping strategy," he said. "An ancient proverb says: 'The gods do not deduct from a man's allotted span, those days spent sailing.'" 🚢

GUARDING HISTORY ▶

Washington, D.C.

A WEALTH of information about this country's oldest military organization can be found in a new Washington, D.C., museum. The National Guard Memorial Museum is located at One Massachusetts Ave., N.W., one block west of Union Station, and is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every state and U.S. territory is represented in the museum, and many of the artifacts on display are on loan from the states. The museum was completed in December 2002, in celebration of the National Guard's 366th birthday. It opened to the public in March.

Describing the museum's displays and artifacts, one recent visitor said they explore the history and mission of the

National Guard Association



colonial militia and the modern Army and Air National Guard, but without creating confusion or information overload.

The museum has seven core exhibit areas that reflect the history of the citizen-soldier in homeland defense, in conflicts and during peacekeeping missions around the world.

"From Concord Bridge to providing security at Ronald Reagan National Airport, the Guard is rooted in homeland

security while also serving abroad," said Kristin Patterson Jones, the National Guard Association's deputy director of communications.

The nonprofit association hopes to raise \$3.6 million to fund educational programs and special events at the museum and support its day-to-day operations, she said.

— MSG Bob Haskell,
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office



SPC Travis Edwards

◀ KEEPING AN EYE ON MOM

Uzbekistan

FLAT Stanley, the newest member of Camp Stronghold Freedom in Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan, has become a new friend to deployed soldiers, even though Stanley is only 12 inches tall, wears a paper uniform and weighs less than an ounce.

"Flat Stanley is a cut-out doll that children create and send to people all over the world by mail," said SGT Anita Guilfoyle-Pace of the 375th Quartermaster Company. "When people receive Flat Stanley in the mail they're supposed to take pictures with him and return the photos to the sender."

"My son misses me very much, and this is his way of keeping an eye on me," said Guilfoyle-Pace. "He was so excited when I called and told him Stanley was here."

Flat Stanley was sent to Camp

Stronghold Freedom by Guilfoyle-Pace's son, Brandon, from Faith Christian School in Osawatomie, Kan. There, Brandon and his kindergarten class created and colored Flat Stanley specifically for Guilfoyle-Pace and her fellow soldiers.

"I wanted to see where my mom is working and send her a friend to be with her until she comes home," said Brandon.

Flat Stanley stays in the Supply Support Activity yard with Guilfoyle-Pace and her unit.

"When the Uzbeks come to the SSA to order supplies, we introduce them to Flat Stanley," said 1LT Heather Kuhn, the 375th's detachment commander. "He has even helped improve international relations in his own little way."

— SPC Travis Edwards,
1st COSCOM PAO

PORTABLE PX VISITS SOLDIERS ►

Iraq

SOLDIERS stood in line for up to six hours for the chance to shop for the first time since the war with Iraq started. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service had arrived to support 3rd Infantry Division soldiers by bringing in necessary items.

A portable post exchange came on trailers, and soldiers helped unload boxes to create a makeshift shopping area while AAFES employees prepared for the shoppers. Soldiers used boxes instead of shopping carts to carry their items.

The AAFES warehouse is located at Baghdad International Airport, and small teams of AAFES personnel often go out to various unit locations to set up business for a day, said Mary Moreno, an AAFES coordinator from Germany. Moreno said command

groups let AAFES know which units are in what areas, and AAFES then arranges a schedule for visits.

Moreno said she enjoys visiting the units that don't have regular access to shopping and need certain items.

"I love it. These guys are so appreciative. It makes me feel good when people say things like, 'Thanks, are you coming back?' and 'We're glad to have you here.' That's what makes it worth it," she said.

SPC James Threet, a 317th Maintenance Co. machinist, said he stood in line for most of the day, but the wait was worthwhile. "I got more than what I needed," he said.

"Many of these soldiers haven't had a chance to shop for personal-hygiene items for a month," said SGT Christopher Cook, a 274th Movement Con-

SPC Katherine Robinson



trol Team transportation manager.

SGT Irene Broussard, the 24th Corps Support Group paralegal NCOIC, said, "It's a good morale booster for the soldiers."

— SPC Katherine Robinson,
50th PA Detachment

PLANNING FOR A NEW

WELL ►

Afghanistan

CPT Wayne Mingo of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, elders of Chengari village and contractors inspect a well which has been approved for repair.



SFC Amanda C. Glenn



◀ WRITING IN THE RAIN

THE General Services Administration recently assigned national stock numbers to the entire tactical product line of "RiteintheRain" water-resistant products developed for the U.S. military by the J.L. Darling Corporation, making them available to government agencies worldwide through the www.gsaAdvantage.gov Web site. — *J.L. Darling Corporation*



The products — which include all-weather tactical loose-leaf binders, notepads, copier paper and pens — are available in woodland green and desert tan.

AUTO-INJECTOR APPROVED

MERIDIAN Medical Technologies Inc., a developer of drug-delivery technology and innovative cardiopulmonary diagnostics, said that the Army has received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for



Meridian's automated assembly and filling production line for the Antidote Treatment Nerve Agent Auto-injector, or ATNAA. The company began manufacturing the ATNAA in January.

A joint research effort between the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Meridian resulted in FDA approval of the assembly and production line, company officials said.

The ATNAA offers significant advantages to the Army over currently used auto-injectors, they said. It's easier to use, less bulky and reduces antidote administration time.

The ATNAA uses multichambered auto-injector technology to deliver two antidotes in a single injection while keeping the two drugs separate in the injector. The auto-injectors are prefilled, spring-loaded, pen-like devices that, when activated and pressed against the body, deliver precise dosages of medication quickly, safely and easily. — *Meridian Medical Technologies*

NEW FLIR IMPROVES GUNNER ACCURACY

WHEN soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, at Fort Hood, Texas, received M1A2 tanks in September 2002, the Army's newest forward-looking infrared system was built in.

Called Second-Generation FLIR, it allows gunners to see more clearly and at greater ranges. It also allows the gunner to engage targets in one direction while the tank commander simultaneously looks in all other directions.

The electro-optical components that make up the Second Generation FLIR are used in the night-vision systems of the M1A2 Abrams tank, M2A3/M3A3 Bradley fighting vehicle, the LOSAT (line-of-sight antitank) system and the Long-Range Scout Surveillance System, LRAS3, which is currently deployed in Kosovo and Afghanistan. — *MAJ Daniel Rusin, Second Generation FLIR*

LASER SCORES

A BIG HIT ►

WHEN a laser successfully destroyed an artillery projectile in flight during a recent test, it was a first-time event, said U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command officials in Huntsville, Ala.

Over the New Mexico desert at the SMDC's High-Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, the Mobile Tactical High-Energy Laser, MTHEL, tracked, locked onto and fired a burst of photons at an artillery projectile, destroying it.

An artillery projectile is roughly two feet long, compared to a rocket's



Artist's conception of a future vehicle-mounted laser system.

10 feet, and is much more difficult to hit because it gives off less heat.

The MTHEL Program, managed by USASMDC, is a collaborative program between the Army and Israel.

The test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., was one of a series of tests that will be conducted to determine MTHEL capabilities. — *SMDC Public Affairs Office*

UPGRADED POWER FOR CHEMICAL-AGENT DETECTORS ►

ENVIRONICS, the Finnish company that developed the new ChemPro 100 hand-held chemical-agent detector, has selected Saft rechargeable lithium-ion batteries to provide a reliable source of power to the detector. The ChemPro 100, which weighs only 2 lbs., is powered by an improved ion-mobility cell that allows the device to detect chemical-warfare agents and toxic industrial materials.

A small computer display on the ChemPro 100 provides information about the concentration levels of toxins, their types, approximate dosage the operator has been exposed to, date and time, and battery life.

The device also stores information that can later be retrieved to provide a historical sequence of events. — *Saft America Inc.*



Health, physical fitness and other topics! ➤

Health



FEEL YOUR BEST

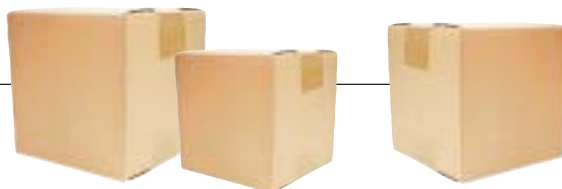
THE U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine wants you to feel your best. The agency has developed the Soldier Health Maintenance Manual, a self-care guide that puts health in soldiers' hands.

The manual focuses on issues that are specific to both men's and women's health, and offers information on dental care, food and nutrition, mental and emotional well-being, physical fitness and other topics. Symptom evaluation charts help users determine health problems.

Not meant to replace formal medical care, the manual helps soldiers develop positive attitudes toward their overall health. The manual is just one part of a Self-care Tool Kit that also includes briefing slides on the overall Self-care Program.



Get the manual or the complete tool kit:
www.hooah4health.com/4You/default.htm



Morale

TREATS FOR TROOPS

WANT mail? Check out **Treats for Troops**, a new Web-based company that lets Americans send care packages to service members stationed around the world. Soldiers can register to participate by providing their names, e-mail addresses and valid military addresses.

Families and friends who already know a service member to whom they want to send mail can register the service member in the TFT database, then visit TFT's online gift shop to pick from more than 70 items. Packages include personalized messages and a response card, so sponsors will know their gifts have arrived safe and sound.

The **Foster-A-Soldier Program**

allows individuals and organizations to sponsor a soldier without knowing someone in the service. Once sponsors are linked with a service member, he or she will be put on "hold" for seven days so sponsors have time to decide what to include in the package. If a sponsor sends no package within a week, the service member's name returns to the top of the eligibility list.

TFT founder Deborah Crane hopes the program will help put at least one package from home in the hands of every service member.

"With a son in the military, I know mail call is the highlight of the day. Our troops, both in the States and abroad, need to know that the people of

America appreciate them, and a package from home is one of the best ways to do that," Crane said. "This isn't a wartime program. This is something that needs to happen every day, all year long, as long as there are men and women serving our country."

Tightened security has made it impossible for Americans to send packages addressed to "Any Soldier," but TFT protects service members' identity and security by giving sponsors only the first name, service and home state. Safe handling of packages is also assured through employee-background checks and security training.




Soldiers can register to participate at:
www.treatsfortroops.com

Employment

FIND THE PERFECT JOB

THE site www.studentjobs.gov is a joint project between the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Department of Education's Student Financial Assistance Office. It's a one-stop Web site that gives high school and college students information about working for the federal government. Users can learn about co-ops, internships, summer employment, the Outstanding Scholars Program, volunteer opportunities, and temporary and permanent part-time and full-time jobs.

The main links on the student.gov site are:

-  Plan for your education
-  Pay for your education
-  Career development
-  Military service
-  Government 101
-  Community service
-  Travel



The site for jobs:
www.studentjobs.gov



Kids

BACK TO SCHOOL



Federal resources:
www.kids.gov

A RETURN to the classroom means school projects and research papers. Where should kids go for new knowledge? At www.kids.gov they can access federal resources on topics ranging from science and math to careers and fighting crime.

The site is affiliated with FirstGov, the U.S. government's

official Web portal. It helps children connect to the government's best research and homework-help sites. Users may go to the Encyclopedia Smithsonian for answers to questions about Egyptian mummies, for example, or learn how to create a graph at the National Center for Education Statistics.

Money

FASTER HOME LOANS

SECURING a low interest rate can save hundreds of dollars in monthly mortgage payments for those who can get fast home loans. The Department of Veterans Affairs offers an Internet-based system that speeds the process by giving lenders instant authenticity of a veteran's eligibility for a VA Loan. Requests are normally processed within an hour of receipt, and the service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



VA forms at:
www.va.gov



SFC John Valceanu is a member of the 214th Public Affairs Detachment. The former *Soldiers* magazine photo editor spent a year in Okinawa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During his tour he captured the island's natural beauty and the recreational attractions that soldiers and other military members enjoy. 🇺🇸



▶ A pre-combat diver qualification course student from the Okinawa-based 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, prepares to leave the pool after swimming several laps while wearing more than 40 pounds of equipment.

▶ Soldiers and other service members stationed on Okinawa have the opportunity to visit the Churaumi Aquarium, which is billed as the world's second largest. The aquarium is filled mainly with sea creatures indigenous to Okinawa's waters.





▲ Soldiers stationed on Okinawa are given the opportunity to enjoy some spectacular sights as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean.



▲ Soldiers and other service members enjoy the Okuma Recreation Area's sandy beaches. The Okuma resort provides a variety of aquatic activities for Department of Defense personnel.

Mail photo submissions for Sharp Shooters to: **Photo Editor, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Digital images should be directed to: alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.





Every morning, Monday through Friday, SSG Jose Diaz from the Miami East Recruiting Station conducts a “milk run,” during which he visits at least two new businesses and leaves Army promotional material and his business cards.



Yo Soy El Army

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt

THE aroma of freshly brewed espresso wafts through the air to the rhythm of congas and saxophones blaring from giant loudspeakers at the entrances to several street cafes.

Welcome to Little Havana, USA, one of the many Latin American melting-pot neighborhoods where recruiters of the Miami Recruiting Battalion spread the “Yo Soy El Army” message.

Every morning, Monday through Friday, SSG Jose Diaz from the Miami East Recruiting Station conducts a “milk run,” during which he visits at least two new businesses and leaves Army promotional material and his business cards.

“We call it the ‘milk run’ because in the ‘old days’ milk was delivered first thing in the morning to people’s doorsteps, and we conduct this part of our business first thing in the morning,” he said. “I like to give an ‘Army of One’ T-shirt to the owners or managers who allow me to showcase my promotional material. They really like our T-shirts.”

Diaz is one of more than 250 recruiters assigned to the Miami Recruiting Battalion. The battalion is responsible for recruiting in both South Florida and Puerto Rico.

“The Miami Recruiting Battalion claims the longest history of focusing on Hispanics in recruiting efforts,” said MAJ Kate Johnson, chief of Accessions Command’s Outreach and Events Division.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more than 34 million Latinos in the United States, or about one in

◀ SSG Gustavo Soto (*far left*) of the Hialeah Recruiting Station talks to people visiting the flight simulator display, one of three “Army of One” stations recruiters set up for the Calle Ocho festival.



SFC Juan Perez of the South Dade Recruiting Station helps Maritza Lozano with her harness before she attempts the rock-climbing wall at the Calle Ocho festival.

eight people. And 33 percent of that Latino population lives in the South, giving the Miami recruiters a large audience among which to spread the word about Army benefits.

“We use all the traditional recruiting efforts — phone calls, referrals, meetings and the Internet — to reach potential candidates. But, most of the time, we do it in Spanish,” Diaz said.

Recruiting someone from the Hispanic community into the Army becomes a major family event, he said.

“Most of the time, I not only have to sit down with the potential candidate, but also his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings,” Diaz said. “Having all the promotional material in Spanish makes it easier for us to explain. It also shows respect for

“It’s very important for us to come out to these large community events so the local people can see that we’re also a part of the community,” said SSG Danny Rodriguez.

the elders in the family, and creates a better relationship between us and them.”

Besides using traditional recruiting tools, the recruiters also participate in major community events.

“‘Calle Ocho’ is the largest Hispanic festival in the United States and one of the largest recruiting events of the year for our recruiters,” said Harvey N. Spigler, chief of public affairs for the Miami Recruiting Battalion. “The annual March event attracts more than five million people and transforms Little Havana into a 20-block-long party.”

During Calle Ocho, more than 40 recruiters manned three stations that highlighted a flight simulator, a basketball free-throw competition, a rock-wall climb competition — where anyone who made it to the top got an “Army of One” T-shirt — and, finally, the push-up platform. The efforts brought the recruiters more than 5,000 new leads, Spigler said.

“It’s very important for us to come out to these large community events so the local people can see that we’re also a part of the community,” said SSG Danny Rodriguez, a recruiter from Florida’s Palm Springs Station. “It also offers us a great opportunity to showcase Army benefits.”

SSG Gustavo Soto, from the Hialeah Station, said the festival provided great opportunities for recruiters to help members of the Hispanic community better understand



SSG Jose Diaz of the Miami East Recruiting Station chats with Ricardo Perez (left) and Martin Rodriguez as they play dominoes in Maximo Gomez Park.

everything the Army offers.

"I really push education benefits such as the Montgomery GI Bill and the College fund," Soto said. "I try very hard to show the Latin community the many positive career opportu-

nities available in the Army."

But Miami recruiters still face some challenges, including the candidate's immigration status and possible lack of English fluency.

During a recent five-hour

recruiting mission Diaz — who understands the challenges — visited two schools, several businesses and passed by several potential candidates' home.

"The secret is that you just have to keep working harder," he said.

Diaz walked into the heart of Miami's Little Havana to get something to eat. Welcomed by Salsa music and old men playing dominoes, he ordered lunch. Suddenly, he turned and spotted a young man sitting close by. Without hesitation he approached the man and gave him his card.

"What can I say," he said. "I have more than 200 jobs I can offer him. And it's not just about the job — it's also about the pride that comes from being part of the Army. That's what 'Yo Soy El Army' is all about." 🇺🇸



SSG Carlos Nevarez of the Kendall Recruiting Station chats with prospective recruits during the Calle Ocho Festival. Such community events allow recruiters to interact with young people who may be interested in an Army career.

Finding the Better Idea

Story by Curt Biberdorf

WHEN Dave Cheney was a senior enlisted adviser visiting Alaska with a project engineer who was developing new load-bearing equipment in 1978, he was struck by the sight of a soldier shivering in the cold while on guard duty.

"I said to myself, 'This guy is freezing,'" said Cheney, the Operational Forces Interface Group (OFIG) team leader at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass.

"When I asked the executive officer, who was in a heated tent, if the cold weather was a problem for his troops, he said, 'No'. Then I knew we had to go to the soldier, the individual user, to get firsthand information."

Seeking soldiers' feedback about the performance of items they wear or carry and the food they eat has been the hallmark of OFIG since it was established in 1986.

Cheney said the then-commander of the Department of Army Materiel Development and Readiness (now Army Materiel Command) was concerned about getting soldier feedback on the items the department makes available to soldiers. So the

director of what is now the Natick Soldier Center established an office to get the feedback needed.

That office grew from one officer and one civilian employee to a staff of two enlisted advisers, three engineering psychologists, six equipment specialists, an exhibit coordinator, an administrative assistant and a team leader.

"We tell them that they have an opportunity to make changes and urge them, as users, to be perfectly honest in their assessments."

OFIG acquires customer feedback through installation visits, user assessments, and exhibits or technical displays. When called upon, quick-reaction teams respond to deployed units that need immediate assistance.

≡ Visits

Installation visits are the core of OFIG. The team initially visited four installations per year. That's been expanded to as many as 10 visits annually, with at least one visit each

to a Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force base.

Within two weeks after returning from a training exercise or deployment, soldiers are rallied together to fill out surveys tailored to their type of unit, and they're interviewed to help OFIG representatives gauge their satisfaction with items developed at the Soldier Systems Center.

"We tell them that they have an opportunity to make changes," said equipment specialist Max Biela. "We always urge users to be perfectly honest in their assessments."

"They're candid," said Cheney, "but little surprises me. The only thing that does surprise me is to find out that a unit hasn't received something it should have received months earlier because it's stuck in a supply room."

Surveys have shown that the infantryman spends an average of \$400 of his own money purchasing military gear. What he buys provides additional information to the team, Biela said.

Through its surveys, OFIG learns whether commonly purchased items should be brought into the system.

≡ Response

Sometimes a response to the feedback can't wait, which is why,



Through its questionnaires, OFIG solicits feedback from soldiers about clothing, equipment and rations.

since the Gulf War, OFIG has employed a team that can immediately investigate problems with fielded equipment, or provide support to soldiers who have new equipment, wherever they're deployed around the world.

In some cases OFIG equipment specialists, many of whom have extensive military experience, have responded to problems or emergencies by escorting equipment to its destination and providing any needed training.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm equipment specialists noted that many supplies were never distributed, because shipping containers arrived minus any type of label to identify what was inside or where it was to be delivered. Now every shipping container contains a bar-code sticker to avoid confusion and delays.

In Macedonia, equipment specialists learned that soldiers were putting wood screws into the tread of their Intermediate Cold/Wet Boots for traction, because the boots themselves provided little traction. More recently, a team from OFIG traveled to Afghanistan to try to resolve issues with

cold-weather clothing in the mountain environment.

Assessment

Well before any product is fielded, OFIG assists project managers in locating units that have volunteered to provide assessments of the product. OFIG additionally works with an evaluator from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command to ensure the unit and equipment meet the Army requirements outlined in the Operational Requirements Document and Test and Evaluation Master Plan.

Whether it's skis for soldiers in Alaska, boots for trudging through mud in Central America or a new military ration entree, OFIG plays a role in ensuring soldiers will be satisfied with what they get, Cheney said. Soldiers' feedback becomes part of the process to determine whether an item should be fielded as is, or with improvements.


Displays

As OFIG grew and its members became knowledgeable in all commodity areas, exhibits became a part of their mission to advertise what they

do and broaden manufacturing resources. Because of an exhibit on Capitol Hill, the Soldier Enhancement Program was established and funded to reduce research and development time from as much as 10 years to less than three years. The shortened time is possible because OFIG representatives evaluate existing commercial items and recommend that they be adopted into the supply system.

Cheney said the exhibits at trade shows are meant to draw interest from industry and academia to what's going on at the Soldier Systems Center. The OFIG group travels to as many as 60 locations annually, sometimes simultaneously, setting up exhibits.

"Information is important to soldiers," Cheney said. "They want to know what's going to be fielded. Their lives are on the line, and OFIG is there for them to ensure the equipment they ultimately receive is going to be what they need and want."

The Soldier Systems Center is part of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. 



For more info on soldiers' evaluations of items they use, visit:
www.sbccom.army.mil.

Tornado Response

Story by Mitch Frazier



ders



2LT Jamie Melchert

WHEN a tornado hit the southern Missouri town of Stockton shortly after 6:30 p.m. on May 5, employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put thoughts of their own losses aside to help those who lost everything.

Hours after the Category F-3 tornado tore through Stockton, environmental specialists, power-plant operators, park rangers and support staff from the Corps' nearby Stockton Dam and reservoir project office emerged from their storm-battered homes to provide emergency service to the 1,700 residents.

"As soon as we realized how extensive the damage was to our office, we mobilized our equipment and manpower and began wading through the rubble," said Rod Hendricks, a natural-resources specialist. "We immediately sent backhoes and other equipment into town to reopen the roadways for emergency traffic."

Traffic was nonexistent in the wake of the storm. Toppled trees, sparking power lines, building materials and storm-tossed vehicles littered roadways, making it impossible for

Mitch Frazier is the chief of public affairs for the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2LT Jamie Melchert



▲ Missouri National Guard soldiers helped with cleanup efforts after a series of tornadoes devastated towns throughout the state.

◀ Among the buildings heavily damaged by the twister that struck Pierce City was the National Guard armory (at upper left). Statewide, tornadoes killed 18 people.



Rod Hendricks of USACE's Kansas City District sifts through the remains of the Stockton Lake project office destroyed by a tornado on May 4.

emergency responders to assess the situation. The Corps team worked until midnight clearing the debris from the town's main road and reopening a path for emergency responders.

"The storm had essentially closed the city," said Ian Hafer, president of the local emergency-planning commission in Stockton. "We knew it was extremely important to reopen the roadways as soon as possible and allow ambulances and the fire department access to the scene, but we had limited staffing. We're fortunate the Corps helped make that happen during those first critical hours."

As the sun rose the next day, the storm-caused destruction was in full view. The town was nearly destroyed. The car lot and gas station that stood alongside the town's main highway were piles of bent metal, crumpled cars and debris. Homes atop the town's hills were reduced to mounds of shingles and splintered wood.

Throughout town, residents, including the 22 employees at Stockton Dam, awoke to their first glimpse

The home of USACE employee Sharon Belcher was one of hundreds destroyed by the tornado that swept through Stockton, Mo.

of the storm's destruction.

"I was expecting it to be really bad," said Donna Butler, a Corps administrative specialist who weathered the storm in a neighbor's storm shelter with her husband and two dogs. "It was just total devastation beyond anything I could have imagined."

After making her way through town, Butler and her co-workers arrived to find their office in a similar state. A pile of bricks and mounds of twisted steel and furniture stood where the office had been. The storm had torn the roof from the brick building, and winds had shredded documents, pictures and brochures.

Trucks and vans once used to patrol and maintain the 50,000-acre dam complex were thrown into a nearby maintenance shed, damaging the building and all the vehicles.

Fortunately, the nearby dam and hydroelectric plant stood untouched.

"I experience the same shock over and over again every time I see this," said office automation specialist Rachael Graves as she made her way

through the remains.

Time hasn't eliminated the woes of cleanup workers either. Less than a week after the storm struck Stockton, city officials ran out of places to pile the tons of debris. They looked to the Corps for help.

Local emergency planners asked for land on the Stockton complex to use as a temporary collection point for the hundreds of tons of tree limbs that littered the city. The Corps offered an old quarry for temporary storage.

Although Hendricks and his team continue to support the city of Stockton as the town begins to rebuild, he said the mission of the Corps in the city is clear.

"It is paramount we continue to keep Stockton Lake functioning for the well-being of the local economy," Hendricks said. "When the lake is open and functioning, people come here and spend money. That money will be critical to rebuilding this area."

Annually, Stockton welcomes more than 1 million visitors to its lake, campground and nature areas. 🚩

Mitch Frazier (both)





Mitch Frazier

The tornado damage in Stockton was completely random; destroyed houses like this one sat next to others that were untouched.

Tornado Troopers

Story by MSG Bob Haskell

NATIONAL Guard soldiers answered the call to help civil authorities deal with the devastation of numerous deadly tornadoes that hammered the Midwest in May. At the same time, they dealt with the aftermath of floods in Alabama.

Some 200 Army Guard soldiers were on duty in Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee by May 6, after a massive tornado system ravaged those states. Six more National Guard soldiers were on active duty in Alabama, according to reports from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

Missouri fielded the largest force of Guard soldiers — 173 — after tornadoes killed 18 people in that state and at least 40, collectively, from all the states affected, according to National Weather Service reports and others.

One of the victims was Wanda Sue Handley, 46, the wife of SPC William Handley, of the Missouri Guard. She was killed in her home in Monett, Mo., Guard officials reported.

Handley is a member of the 203rd Engineer Battalion and had been on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., since he was mobilized in March.

Handley was talking with his wife on his cellular phone, "when she told him, 'I see it,' and then the phone went dead," said Company C's 1SG Randy Mackey. "He was in shock."

Handley received immediate approval to return to his home.

The Missouri tornadoes badly damaged Guard armories in Pierce City and DeSoto. And President George W. Bush issued federal disaster declarations for 39 counties in Missouri and seven counties in Kansas.

Guard soldiers from the 110th Engr. Bn., in Kansas City; Co. A, 735th Main Support Bn., in Nevada, Mo.; and Co. C, 935th Spt. Bn., in Aurora and Springfield, were sent to badly damaged Pierce City, Gladstone and Stockton.

National Guard spokesman SFC Ron Holbrook reported that Guard troops initially set up generators to provide power for water pumps, and about 70 Guard soldiers helped police patrol streets in hard-hit Pierce City, an historic railroad town in Missouri's southwest corner.

Guard soldiers delivered four large generators to Pierce City and seven to Stockton to help generate electricity for emergency needs, said 2LT Jamie Melchert.

About 125 of the 203rd's soldiers were allowed to leave Fort Leonard Wood to help their families and communities recover from the damage. They were expected to return to the installation soon after, to await deployment orders to Iraq.

Several of the 203rd's soldiers had experienced nature's wrath while serving in Honduras in 1999, to help that country recover from Hurricane Mitch, they said.

"That was a cakewalk, compared to what happened here," said SSG Ed Hatfield. "This is unbelievable." 🚩

MSG Bob Haskell is a member of the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office.

IT'S YOUR TIME TO SHINE IN SOLDIERS' MOST POPULAR ISSUE

Soldiers is planning the January 2004 Almanac and wants your images for the "This is Our Army" section. Send us your candid photos of the Army family at work or play.



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Around the Services

Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt
from service reports



Air Force

Members of the Wood Brothers Race Team watch a B-2 Spirit bomber fly over their Air Force Centennial of Flight car. The B-2 conducted the fly-over during starting ceremonies for the NASCAR Coca-Cola 600 at North Carolina's Lowe's Motor Speedway. During the race, the Air Force car carried the 333rd Fighter Squadron patch in honor of Maj. William Watkins and Capt. Eric Das, an F-15E Strike Eagle crew killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Watkins and Das performed the fly over for last year's race.



Larry McTighe



Coast Guard

A hovering HH-65 helicopter from Air Station Atlantic City lowers a rescue swimmer during a Coast Guard search-and-rescue demonstration during New York City's Fleet Week 2003.



PA2 Matthew Belson, USCG

Cpl. Kevin Hayner, USMC



PH1 Arlo K. Abrahamson, USN

Navy

Builder 2nd Class Bruce Schmiderer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15 helps build a playground in Al Hillah, Iraq. NMCB-15 is deployed in Iraq supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and is involved in humanitarian-assistance building projects throughout the country.



Marines

Marines from Camp Lejeune's Special Marine Air Ground Task Force participate in a four mile "motto run," which began at Ground Zero and ended at the USS *Intrepid* Museum during Fleet Week 2003.



The Story **Behind** the **Cards**



Laura Donnelly

The faces behind the deck of Iraq's "most wanted" playing cards are (from left) 2LT Hans Mumm, SGT Andrei Salter, SSG Shawn Maloney and ...

SOMETIMES it takes a soldier to understand what a soldier needs, especially when he's in a foreign country, looking for people whose names he can't even pronounce. In Iraq, five soldiers with a novel idea put faces with those names in a way all soldiers would not only understand, but also enjoy.

It started as a way to get information to soldiers in Iraq and became an overnight sensation — the Iraqi "Most Wanted" playing cards.

"We never expected BG Vincent Brooks to hold the deck of cards up during a press briefing," said SGT Scott Boehmler of the Army Reserve's 3401st Military Intelligence Detachment.

"Not every soldier in the field has a laptop or access to a secure Internet line, and a lot of information was only available through secure sources at the time," said SSG Shawn Mahoney, also with the 3401st MI Det. "This was an opportunity to put something out there for everyone, not just the MI community or the command."

The soldiers, each with different backgrounds in both the military and civilian sectors, came together as part of an MI Iraqi task force to work on different projects.

"This started as an idea about find-

ing easier ways to get information to the field," said SPC Joseph Barrios of the 3418th MI Det.

SGT Andrei Salter, who's assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency as the only active-duty member of the group, said it was important to get the names and faces out.

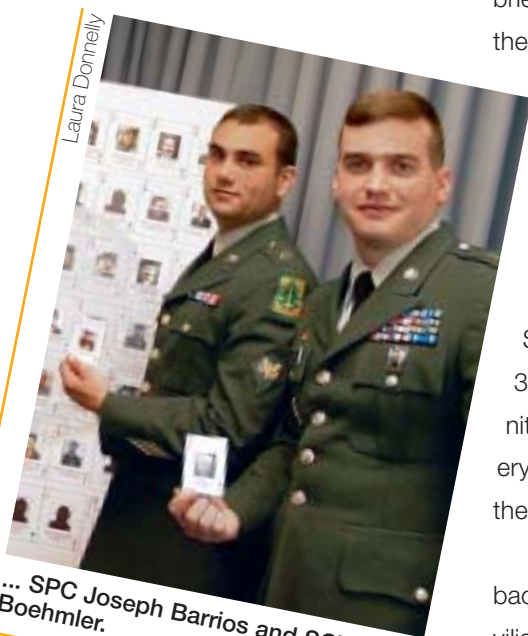
"When the list reached 50, we thought it would be helpful to put the information and pictures on a deck of cards," said Salter. "They'd be an information tool, and the soldiers could use them when they had down time, too."

Using playing cards as a teaching tool is not a new military concept. Cards have long been used in aircraft and vehicle identification courses. Many civilian organizations also use playing cards to get information to their audiences.

The soldiers each agreed that 2LT Hans Mumm of the 3404th MI Det. was the driving force behind getting the cards into the hands of soldiers. "The 'LT' really coordinated this and made sure there were no problems with what we were doing," Salter said.

The Iraqi "Most Wanted" playing cards can now be purchased from several Internet sites. A poster that displays all the cards is being distributed by U.S. embassies so local people know who the coalition forces are looking for, Mahoney said.

"That really helps us get the information out," he said. 🇺🇸



Laura Donnelly

... SPC Joseph Barrios and SGT Scott Boehmler.



The Corps Engages: Military Infrastructure


BEGINNING in 1951 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers carried out U.S. government-sponsored construction projects in the Middle East. In the mid-1960s Saudi Arabia asked USACE to assist in the construction of the Saudi military infrastructure, all of which the Saudis funded.

In 1976 the USACE Middle East Division was formed to oversee the by-then extensive construction program.

Under an engineer assistance agreement and a subsequent memorandum of understanding between USACE and the Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation, the division helped MODA build three large bases. USACE also built the MODA headquarters, the Royal Saudi Air Force headquarters, a military academy, an airborne training school, housing, airfields, ports, hospitals, schools, roads and an engineer-training center.

The jewel of the entire Saudi program was the construction of King Khalid Military City, a massive base designed to house more than 70,000 people. The KKMC project cost \$8.5 billion. This was the single largest military construction project in USACE history and required the award of more than 30 large contracts.

Besides the Saudi projects, USACE also oversaw work in Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Somalia during this period.

From 1976 through 1988 the USACE Middle East projects were collectively worth an estimated \$14 billion, and required some 3000 USACE employees to rotate through Saudi Arabia. 



The entrance to KKMC, one of several USACE projects in Saudi Arabia.



Designed to house 70,000 people, KKMC cost \$8.5 billion to build.

SSG BASHEER ABDULLAH



SSG Basheer Abdullah entered the Army in 1984 as a light-wheeled-vehicle mechanic. As a boxer, he was nationally ranked third in his weight class. As a coach, Abdullah's accomplishments include guiding the Army to five medals during the U.S. National Championships and winning the National team title. From 1997 to 2002 he coached the Army to six armed forces team titles. In 2000 Abdullah was an Olympic Boxing Team technical adviser.



WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center.

Boxing Coach